

**V. § 103 Rejection of claim 16 over WO 98/01515 of Moureaux in view of
U.S. 4,867,861 to Abdo et al.**

Claim 16 is rejected as being obvious over WO 98/01515 of Moureaux in view of U.S. 4,867,861 to Abdo et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to independent claim 1 from which claim 16 depends and in view of the following comments.

Reconsideration and reexamination of claim 16 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner applies the Abdo et al. patent to supply the nickel component that is not disclosed by the Moureaux publication as a component of its dewaxing catalyst.

It is respectfully asserted that the amended claims are distinguishable over the Examiner's cited references. The distinctions are discussed above.

VI. New claims 17-25

New claims 17-25 are added to the specification. Claim 17 is an independent claim, and claims 18-25 depend directly or indirectly from claim 17. Distinguishing features of the invention of these claims is the requirement that the feedstock have a high sulfur concentration and that the feedstock be of a particular type. Also, the recited catalyst must be a nickel catalyst. Significant in dependent claim 25 is the requirement that the catalyst have an absence of a Group VIB metal.


It is therefore respectfully asserted that claims 17-25 are patentable over the prior art.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully asserts that the claims now pending in the application are in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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